

Filed for intro on 06/21/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 572  
By Ridgeway

A RESOLUTION To congratulate Sam Tharpe, Vice Mayor of  
Paris, Tennessee, upon his election as  
President of the Tennessee Municipal League.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly are pleased to honor those  
Tennessee local government officials whose dedication to the duties of their respective offices  
and whose outstanding skills have earned them statewide offices in professional organizations;  
and

WHEREAS, One such talented and committed local government official is Sam Tharpe,  
Vice Mayor of Paris, who was recently elected President of the Tennessee Municipal League  
(TML) at its 62nd Annual Conference at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tharpe is a native of Paris who earned an undergraduate degree in  
Business Administration from Union University in Jackson and a Master's Degree in Supervision  
and Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin; after a career in private industry,  
he was an intermediate basic skills instructor at the Tennessee Technology Center in Paris and

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presently serves as Assistant Principal and Boys Basketball Coach at Lakewood Elementary School in Henry County; and

WHEREAS, Sam Tharpe first ran for election to the Paris City Commission; in 1991, he was elected Vice Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tharpe was re-elected to a second four-year term in 1995 and was re-elected to a third term in 1999; although he was entitled to the Office of Mayor based upon his vote total in 1995, he declined because of time constraints; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Sam Tharpe was elected to the TML Board of Directors and, in 1998, he was elected Third Vice President of TML; while Vice Mayor of Paris and as a TML officer, he has worked to bring quality jobs to small rural areas and thus create a stronger local tax base; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tharpe, as President of TML, will serve as the primary spokesman for the League, as well as Tennessee's spokesman for TML with the National League of Cities; the National League of Cities represents all the nation's municipalities in their dealings with the United States Congress and the current administration; and

WHEREAS, As President, Sam Tharpe will sit on the boards of TML's self-funded Risk Management Pool and the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund; these non-profit enterprises, designed to provide insurance coverage and loans for capital improvements, respectively, were the first of their kind in this country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tharpe is fortunate to enjoy the love and support of his wife, Gale Hartsfeldt Tharpe; the couple attends the Progressive Baptist Church in Paris and are active participants in the life of their community; and

WHEREAS, The Tennessee Municipal League has clearly acted to secure outstanding leadership for the upcoming term through its election of Sam Tharpe as its President; his impeccable leadership qualities and proven abilities will contribute much to the future success of the TML mission; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Sam Tharpe of Paris upon his election as President of the Tennessee Municipal League, and extend to him our best wishes for every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.